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PAGE 01 STATE 035916

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ITALY: COMMUNISTS IN NO-LOSE POSITION

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY HAS
CRITICIZED MORO'S FORMATION OF AN ALL-DC GOVERNMENT. THE
PCI STATEMENT CHARGED THAT:

--REVELATIONS OF AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS
POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICIANS "SERIOUSLY AGGRA-
VATED" THE SITUATION.

--A NEW GOVERNMENT COMPOSED ONLY OF CHRISTIAN DEMO-
CRATS IS NOT HEALTHY FOR THE COUNTRY.

--THE ONLY REAL SOLUTION WOULD BE A GOVERNMENT OF ALL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 035916

DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES, INCLUDING THE PCI.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE PCI JUDGMENT ABOUT THE ALL-DC GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY CRITICAL, BUT NOT ENTIRELY NEGATIVE. AT THE VERY LEAST, ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN DEFERRED. FURTHER-

MORE, THE PCI SEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE AND EVEN EXPAND THE INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IT HAD WITH THE LAST GOVERNMENT ON THE FORMATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) ROME 2284, 2/12.)

2. FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS--GROWLS FROM MOSCOW

IN A SPEECH TO SOVIET SYMPATHIZERS THE USSR'S REPRESENTATIVE AT THE PCF CONGRESS HARDLY MENTIONED THE PCF'S DROPPING OF THE CONCEPT OF THE "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT." HE INSTEAD EMPHASIZED THAT:

--PFC LEADER MARCHAIS' RECENT ADOPTION OF SELECTED HUMANITARIAN CAUSES IN THE USSR IS A MORE SERIOUS MATTER; AND

--WHAT MOSCOW CONSIDERS MOST OFFENSIVE IS AN ANTI-SOVIET STRAIN IN THE PCF'S NEW LINE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DESPITE SOVIET IRRITATION WITH MARCHAIS WE EXPECT THEY WILL CALIBRATE THEIR FUTURE ATTITUDE TOWARD MARCHAIS CONSIDERING BOTH HIS STATEMENTS AND HIS ACTUAL CHANCES OF PARTICIPATING IN POWER. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PARIS 4339, 2/12.)

3. FRENCH ARMS DEVELOPMENT--MRVS NOT MIRVS

ARMAMENTS DIRECTOR DELPECH OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED A WASHINGTON POST REPORT THAT THE FRENCH MAY BE DEVELOPING MIRVS. DELPECH ALSO SAID FRANCE:

--WILL DEVELOP ONLY MRVS BECAUSE MIRVS DO NOT FIT FRENCH NUCLEAR STRATEGY OR CAPABILITIES;

--HAS NOT CHANGED ITS NUCLEAR STRATEGY AND CONTINUES
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 035916

TO TARGET ITS STRATEGIC WEAPONS ON "DEMOGRAPHIC TARGETS;" AND

--DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO EXPAND ITS STRATEGIC NUCLEAR POSTURE EXCEPT FOR QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS LIKE MRVS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: DELPECH IS ONE OF THE GOF'S BEST INFORMED

OFFICIALS ON THIS SUBJECT. WHETHER HIS REMARKS WERE ACCURATE OR COMPLETE IS ANOTHER QUESTION. (SECRET) PARIS 4382 (EXDIS), 2/12.)

4. SAHARA

A. EGYPTIAN EFFORTS

THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN RABAT HAS BRIEFED AMBASSADOR NEUMANN ON GOE MEDIATION EFFORTS ON THE SAHARA.

--EGYPTIAN VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ALGERIANS BECAUSE OF DISARRAY WITHIN THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

--A MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN MILITARY CONFRONTATION IS INDEED POSSIBLE, BUT THE ALGERIANS COULD NOT EXPECT TO WIN.

B. MAHBES OFFICIALLY OCCUPIED

AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF CONFLICTING REPORTS, THE GOM OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED FEBRUARY 12 THAT MAHBES IN THE EASTERN SAHARA WAS ENTIRELY CONTROLLED BY MOROCCAN FORCES. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 793 AND 797, 2/12.)

5. BENIN-US "DIPLOMATIC" RELATIONS

AMBASSADOR ENGLE RECEIVED "BARBARIC TREATMENT" FROM BENIN PRESIDENT KEREKOU WHEN SUMMONED TO THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE FEBRUARY 12. AFTER AN INSULTING RECEPTION, THE AMBASSADOR WAS PEREMPTORILY DISMISSED FROM THE MEETING.

--FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE THEREAFTER ARRANGED A
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PAGE 04 STATE 035916

"CONFRONTATION" WITH A KANGAROO COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, WHICH TRIED TO ESTABLISH THE AMBASSADOR'S INCOMPETENCE AND DISHONESTY.

--THE AMBASSADOR FEELS HE "WON" WHATEVER INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE THERE WAS.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: MY INCREDIBLE ADVENTURES OF FEBRUARY 12 MUST SURELY BE COUNTED AMONG THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS EXPERIENCES ANY AMERICAN CHIEF OF MISSION HAS EVER UNDERGONE AT THE HANDS OF THE TOP LEADERSHIP OF ANY GOVERNMENT. IT IS REASONABLE AND PROPER AT THIS POINT FOR THE USG TO CONSIDER WHETHER WE SHOULD REMAIN AT ALL IN BENIN. (CONFIDENTIAL) COTONOU 256 AND 253, 2/12.) INGERSOLL

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